

## **Minutes of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission Meeting**

Date: June 10, 2016  
11:30am – 1:30pm  
Franklin Regional County of Governments  
12 Olive Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

### **Members Present:**

Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay  
Representative Gail Cariddi  
Brian Bullock (At-Large)  
Dave Christopolis (At-Large)  
Jay Coburn (Cape Cod Commission)  
Linda Dunlavy (Franklin Regional Council of Governments)  
Corinne Fitzgerald  
Donna Hamel (At-Large)  
Nathaniel Karns (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission)  
Konnie Lukes (At-Large)  
Trish Settles (Central Massachusetts Regional Planning District Commission)  
Judy Terry (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission)  
Bill Veno (Martha's Vineyard Commission)

### **Members Absent**

Wendy Hudson (Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission)

### **Others Present**

Matt Baron, Consultant  
Michael Benezra, DHCD  
Karen Bresnahan, DHCD  
Michael Buoniconti, Mohawk Trail Regional  
Richie Davis  
Bill Diehl, Collaboration for Educational Services  
Rita Farrell, MHP  
Abby Getman, Food Bank of Western MA  
Rus Lodi, MHP  
Paul McMorrow, EOHED  
Rich Parr, Mass. Inc.  
Dan Sieger, Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Carsten Snow, MHP  
Scott Soares, USDA  
Phoebe Walker, FCRHRA

**Welcome and Introductions**

Senate President Rosenberg welcomed members of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission and briefly described the responsibilities of the commission.

**Swearing in of Commission Members**

Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay and Paul McMorrow, Director of Policy and Communications for the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, lead the members in the oath and swore in nominees as Commissioners of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission.

**Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Commission**

The Senate President solicited nominations for the position of Chair. Jay Coburn offered the nomination of Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay, which was affirmed by the supporting motion of Linda Dunlavy. Chrystal Kornegay was confirmed as the Chair.

The Undersecretary led the nomination process for Vice Chair, which was initiated by a motion to select Rep. Gail Carridi to the position. Nathaniel Karns offered a supporting motion and the Representative was confirmed as the Vice Chair.

The last nomination was for the position of Treasurer, which was initiated by a motion to select Linda Dunlavy, which was supported by Bill Venio. Linda Dunlavy was confirmed as the Treasurer of the commission.

**Elected Officers of the Commission**

- (Chair) Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay (DHCD)
- (Vice Chair) Representative Gail Carridi
- (Treasurer) Linda Dunlavy (Franklin Regional County of Governments)

**Presentation on Housing Data by Rita Farrell (Massachusetts Housing Partnership) and Paul McMorrow (EOHED)**

Rita Farrell of MHP and Paul McMorrow of EOHED delivered a presentation that included information from MHP's Rural Policy Initiative and demographic and employment data about Massachusetts's rural communities.

See attached Power Point presentation (also posted at [www.mass.gov/dhcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcd))

**Discussions about the Policy Matrix**

Based on discussions with Commissioners prior to the meeting, EOHED compiled a matrix outlining a proposed agenda for the work of the Commission. The Chair asked the members if the stated priorities reflected their views about rural policy needs. It was decided to collapse and reorganize some of the policy areas and to establish separate working groups focusing on each of

the priority areas: Economic Development, Housing, Workforce/Demographics, and Infrastructure.

The commission approved the establishment of the four working groups and asked for coordinators of each working group. The composition of each working group is as follows:

**Economic Development**

- (Coordinator) Rep. Gail Cariddi
- Councilor Konnie Lukes
- Linda Dunlavy

**Housing**

- (Coordinator) Corinne Fitzgerald
- Donna Hamel
- Jay Coburn

**Workforce/Demographics**

- (Coordinator) Nathaniel Karns
- Linda Dunlavy
- Donna Hamel
- Jay Coburn
- Trish Settles

**Infrastructure**

- (Coordinator) Dave Christopolis
- Brian Bullock
- Trish Settles
- Judy Terry
- Bill Veno

**Scheduling the Second Meeting**

The commission agreed to hold the next (second meeting) of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 11:30AM on Cape Cod. The specific location is yet to be determined, but will be posted on the website immediately upon confirmation.

**Next Steps**

The Chair and commissioners agreed to the following action steps to take place before the second meeting of the commission in September.

1. Post Next Meeting date to website

2. Post link to Rural Policy Commission on the front of DHCD webpage
3. Post Presentations to Rural Policy webpage
4. Send Revised Policy Matrix to members
5. Send Contact Information to Commission Members
6. Working groups should work with staff to coordinate meetings and logistics
7. Working groups must meet at least once before the next full meeting
8. Determine method for soliciting public comment
9. Discuss the a potential webinar for deep dive into data

### **Questions and Comments from the Audience**

- Request for a breakdown of the data presented by MHP. Undersecretary Kornegay acknowledged the request and placed that request on the commission agenda before the second meeting. MHP also agreed to post the presentation on the DHCD –Rural Policy webpage (<http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/dhcd/rural-policy-advisory-commission.html>)
- Recommendation was made for the commission to focus on regional education, transportation and fiscal pressure on local aid.
- Question was raised concerning the Commission’s plan to deal with climate change. Undersecretary Kornegay acknowledged the request and agreed to take the issue into account while considering future policy discussions.
- Recommendation was made for the commission to explore or create best practices for dealing with the issue of population decline in rural communities. The Undersecretary agreed to take the recommendation into account while considering future policy discussions.
- Recommendation to request that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) focus on rural expansion efforts.

### **Undersecretary Adjourned the Meeting at 1:20 pm**